



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
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FY2014 SIGTARP Conference Spending

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Memorandum 12-12 issued on May 11, 2012, provides the guidance necessary to agencies to implement the President's Executive Order 13589. Memorandum 12-12 requires agencies to publicly report information on their websites regarding the activities taken to reduce conference spending and the controls agencies have put into place to ensure conferences are reviewed and approved at an appropriate level. In addition, agencies are to include agency-wide information about the size and scope of conference spending throughout the year. Specifically, all agency-sponsored conferences where the net expenses for the agency associated with the conference were in excess of \$100,000 are to be detailed. Finally, OMB Memorandum 12-12 prohibits expenses in excess of \$500,000 on a single conference. The agency head may provide a waiver from the policy if he/she determines that exceptional circumstances exist whereby spending in excess of \$500,000 on a single conference is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose. The grounds for any such waiver must be documented in writing by the agency head and published as well. The annual report on conference expenses must be posted in a dedicated place on the official agency website by January 31st each year (reporting information for the previous fiscal year activities).

SIGTARP is providing the following information as required for FY2014:

GENERAL CONFERENCE SPENDING

During FY2014, SIGTARP continued to aggressively pursue our mission of advancing economic stability by promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of TARP management, through transparency, through coordinated oversight, and through robust enforcement against those, whether inside or outside of Government, who waste, steal or abuse TARP funds. SIGTARP management ensured efficient management of conference attendance and hosting activities by:

- Continuing the practice of only authorizing conference attendance as a training activity. Training activities must be submitted and approved via the Treasury Learning Management System. This system incorporates five levels of validations to ensure that the requested training and/or conference participations is relevant to SIGTARP's mission, a requirement of the employee's position, and sufficient funds are available to cover the costs of the training or conference.
- Continued utilization of and expanded investment in teleconference technology as an alternative means of accomplishing collaboration and communication, when possible and practical, to alleviate travel requirements.

A majority of SIGTARP staff consists of law enforcement and audit positions. Each of these categories has unique, ongoing, mandatory annual training requirements. Additionally, since many of the areas within our jurisdiction require non-traditional government skillsets, training is always part of the strategy to accomplish the mission in the most efficient way possible. Overall, SIGTARP training costs for FY2014 totaled \$279,349. The breakdown of that total is commercial training \$168,698; government-sourced training \$52,671; and the travel associated with training \$57,980.

AGENCY-HOSTED TRAINING

SIGTARP did not conduct any agency-hosted training in excess of \$100,000 in FY2014.